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CINCLANT

AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 1198

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, MNUC

SUBJECT: MARCH 3 NPG STAFF GROUP MEETING

REF: A. USNATO 0981

B. USNATO 0963

SUMMARY: AT MARCH 3 MEETING, NPG STAFF GROUP (SG) DISCUSSED DPC PARTICIPATION IN WINTEX-75 AND EXCHANGED COMMENTS ON FEBRUARY 20 REPORT TO PREMREPS BY PHASE II STUDY TEAM. UK REP (BEAUMONT) PROVIDED SOME "EARLY THOUGHTS" ON POSSIBLE APPROACHES TO PHASE III, INCLUDING AS ONE APPROACH, THE AMBITIOUS UNDERTAKING OF DRAWING TOGETHER ALL PAST NPG WORK TO DEVELOP A BROAD CONCEPT FOR THE TACTICAL USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN EUROPE. CHAIRMAN (SHEARER) AND BELGIAN REP (DE MILD) RAISED QUESTIONS CONCERNING LOCATION OF JUNE NPG MINISTERIAL AND POSSIBLE LOGISTICS DIFFICULTIES FOR THOSE PERSONS PARTICIPATING IN BOTH THE NPG MINISTERIAL AND SACLANT SYMPOSIUM IN THE US IN JUNE. BELGIAN REP ASKED FOR PRELIMINARY REACTION TO POSSIBLE BELGIAN PROPOSAL TO INCREASE SIZE OF DELEGATIONS PARTICIPATING IN NPG MINISTERIAL MEETINGS. CONFIDENTIAL

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UK AND FRG REPS COMMENTED ON POSSIBILITY OF INCLUDING SELECTIVE EMPLOYMENT PLANNING (SEP) ON DRAFT AGENDA FOR SPRING MINISTERIAL. FRG EXTENDED OFFER TO HOST AUTUMN 1975 NPG MINISTERIAL MEETING. END SUMMARY.

1. AT MARCH 3 NPG STAFF GROUP (SG) MEETING, SG CHAIRMAN (SHEARER) INVITED MORAN OF COUNCIL OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE (IS) TO PRESENT BRIEF REMARKS ON EXERCISE TIMING AND DPC PARTICIPATION IN WINTEX-75, AND TO ANSWER QUESTIONS OF SP REPS. MOST QUESTIONS FOCUSED ON TIMING AND PROCEDURES FOR DPC PARTICIPATION. IN CONNECTION WITH A QUESTION BY UK REP (BEAUMONT) ON HOW AND WHEN THE SUBJECT OF COMMUNICATING NATO'S INTENTION (CNI) TO THE ENEMY WOULD BE ADDRESSED, CANADIAN REP (BECKETT) NOTED THAT DURING WINTEX-73, THE DPC DISCUSSED CNI AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE USE QUESTION ITSELF. THEREFORE, IT WAS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT THE CNI QUESTION WOULD AGAIN BE EXAMINED DURING WINTEX-75, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF RECENT NPG STUDY ON THIS QUESTION (NPG/STUDY/46).

2. CHAIRMAN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO THE PHASE II STUDY TEAM FOR THE EXCELLENT REPORT TO PREMREPS ON FEBRUARY 20 (REFS A AND B). CANADIAN REP SUPPORTED THESE VIEWS AND NOTED THAT THE CANADIAN PERMREP (MENZIES) THOUGHT THE REPORT TO PERMREPS EXPLAINED SEVERAL POINTS WHICH WERE NOT CLEAR IN THE STUDY ITSELF, AND CLARIFIED THE OVERRIDING IMPORTANCE OF POLITICAL OBJECTIVES IN ANY DECISION TO USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS. US REP (WOODWORTH), IN RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS RAISED BY SG MEMBERS, SAID THAT THE STUDY TEAM WOULD TAKE FULL ACCOUNT OF NATIONAL COMMENTS IN PREPARING THE FINAL PHASE II REPORT, AND THAT THE TEAM PLANNED TO MEET MARCH 20 SCHEDULE FOR COMPLETING THE REPORT.

3. UK REP (BEAUMONT), NOTING THAT UK WAS IN PROCESS OF CONSIDERING HOW PHASE III MIGHT PROCEED, PROVIDED SOME "EARLY THOUGHTS". NOTING THAT THE "BASIC AIM" OF THE STUDY PROGRAM IS TO PRODUCE GUIDANCE FOR FOLLOW-ON USE, IF APPROPRIATE, HE SUGGESTED THREE POSSIBILITIES: (1) REVIEW AND UPDATE THE PROVISIONAL POLITICAL GUIDELINES FOR INITIAL USE OF TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS; (2) PRODUCE A SEPARATE DOCUMENT ON GUIDELINES FOR FOLLOW-ON USE; OR (3) UNDERTAKE THE MORE AMBITIOUS TASK OF CONSIDERING ALL WORK SO FAR ACCOMPLISHED BY THE NPG IN CONFIDENTIAL

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ORDER TO DEVELOP A BROAD CONCEPT FOR THE TACTICAL USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. HE POINTED OUT THAT NPG, AND CAPITALS, HAD UNDERTAKEN CONSIDERABLE WORK IN RELATED AREAS SINCE THE PROVISIONAL POLITICAL GUIDELINES WERE APPROVED IN 1969.

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SUMMARIZING WORK ON ADM'S PHASE I AND PHASE II OF THE FOLLOW-ON USE STUDIES, THE CNI STUDY, ETC., HE SAID HIS AUTHORITIES BELIEVED THAT THE NPG COULD DO SOME VERY USEFUL WORK IN BRINGING TOGETHER ALL THESE EFFORTS IN ONE DOCUMENT WHICH WOULD PROVIDE AN OVERALL CONCEPT FOR TACTICAL USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. AS AN ASIDE, HE NOTED THAT US SECDEF HAS ON OCCASION MENTIONED THE NEED FOR AN IMPROVED COMPREHENSIVE DOCTRINE FOR TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN EUROPE. MISSION COMMENT: AS COMPLETION DATE OF FINAL PHASE II STUDY TEAM REPORT APPROACHES, SG DELEGATIONS ARE GIVING CONSIDERABLE THOUGHT TO QUESTION OF WHERE WE GO FROM HERE WITH FOLLOW-ON USE STUDY PROGRAM. MOST DELEGATION APPEAR TO ANTICIPATE GOING FORWARD WITH A PHASE III EFFORT, BUT DIRECTION AND GOALS OF PHASE III ARE STILL VERY FLUID. IF US HOPES TO GUIDE STUDY PROGRAM IN ANY PARTICULAR DIRECTION, WE SHOULD HAVE CLEARLY IN MIND A DESIRED COURSE OF ACTION AND SHOULD BEGIN TO PUT FORWARD OUR IDEAS AT AN EARLY DATE. WE WILL PROVIDE MISSION VIEWS ON THIS QUESTION BY SEPTED. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE.

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4. CHAIRMAN POINTED OUT THAT SCHEDULING BOTH NPG MINISTERIAL AND SACLANT SYMPOSIUM DURING WEEK OF 16-20 JUNE COULD PRESENT SUBSTANTIAL LOGISTIC DIFFICULTIES FOR THOSE PERSONS PARTICIPATING IN BOTH EVENTS. HE NOTED THAT THESE DIFFICULTIES WOULD BE PARTICULARLY ACUTE IF NPG WERE TO BE HELD IN WESTERN PART OF US. FOR EXAMPLE, SACLANT SYMPOSIUM HAS SCHEDULED FIRST ACTIVITY FOR EVENING OF JUNE 17. BELGIAN REP (DE MILD) STATED THAT HE WAS INSTRUCTED TO RAISE QUESTION OF LOCATION OF NPG MINISTERIAL FOR SAME REASONS GIVEN BY CHAIRMAN. HE SAID THAT BELGIAN AMBASSADOR (DE STAERCKE) NEEDS INFORMATION SO THAT HE CAN MAKE TRAVEL PLANS AND CAN RESPOND TO INVITATION FROM SACLANT WITH NECESSARY INFORMATION. SACLANT REP ADDED THAT

SACLANT HAS REQUESTED SUCH INFORMATION BY MARCH 10. MISSION COMMENT: MISSION AGREES THAT LOGISTICS COULD BE A PROBLEM IF NPG MINISTERIAL IS HELD IN WESTERN PART OF US. TO FACILITATE NECESSARY PLANNING BY ALLIES, MISSION BELIEVES WE MUST INFOR

NPG MEMBERS SOON OF PROPOSED SITE FOR THE MINISTERIAL.

5. BELGIAN REP, ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS, PUT FORWARD FOR PRELIMINARY REACTION OF OTHER DELEGATIONS SUGGESTION THAT NPG CONSIDER ENLARGING PARTICIPATION IN MINISTERIAL SESSIONS TO AT LEAST SIX PERSONS PER DELEGATION, AND PREFERABLY MOR THAN SIX. HE ARGUED THAT EXPANDING ATTENDANE WOULD BE A HELP IN REPORTING AND STAFFING. BELGIAN PROPOSAL WAS CLEARLY INTENDED TO ELICIT PRELINIMARY REACTION PRIOR TO RAISING QUESTION FORMALLY AT HIGHER LEVELS. US REP NOTED THAT HISTORICALLY ATTENDANCE WAS KEPT LIMITED TO PERMIT MORE FRANK AND UNSTRUCTURED DISCUSSIONS, AND THAT US HAD ALWAYS FAVOURED THIS ARRANGEMENT. UK REP AGREED WITH US REP COMMENTS AND ADDED THAT HE THOUGHT UK AUTHORITIES WOULD PREFER TO KEEP PARTICIPATION SMALL. CANADIAN REP SAID THIS QUESTION AFFECTED ALL NPG COUNTRIES, NOT JUST THOSE ATTENDING THE SPRING MINISTERIAL. HE SUGGESTED THAT IF THIS QUESTION IS RAISED FORMALLY, IT SHOULD BE DEALT WITH AT PERMREP LEVEL. MISSION COMMENTS: IF WASHINGTON WISHES TO OPPOSE INCREASING NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS PER DELEGATION IN NPG MINISTERIAL SESSION, WE SHOULD MAKE OUR VIEWS KNOWN TO BELGIAN DELEGATION AT AN EARLY DATE IN ORDER TO DISCOURAGE THEIR PUTTING SUGGESTION FORWARD FORMALLY. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE.

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6. UK REP ASKED IF SELECTIVE EMPLOYMENT PLANNING (SEP) WOULD BE ON AGENDA FOR NPG SPRING MINISTERIAL. CHAIRMAN ANSWERED THAT HE PROPOSED NOT TO INCLUDE IT AS A SEPARATE ITEM ON DRAFT AGENDA, WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT SACEUR WOULD BE PREPARED TO SPEAK ON THE SUBJECT IF QUESTIONED. CHAIRMAN NOTED STRONG INTEREST OF FRG IN HAVING SEP DISCUSSION SOMETIME DURING MEETING, AND EXPLAINED THAT HE WOULD INFORM SHAPE THAT QUESTION OF SEP WOULD PROBABLY ARISE DURING THE MEETING. FRG REP (MERKL) RESTATED INTEREST OF FRG IN BEING INFORMED OF OF RURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN SEP AND SUGGESTED QUESTIONING SHAPE PRIOR TO PERMREP MEETING WHETHER OR NOT SACEUR HAD ANY NEW SEP INFORMATION WORTH REPORTING.

7. FRG REP INFORMED SG THAT HIS AUTHORITIES INSTRUCTED HIM TO EXTEND OFFER OF FRG TO HOST THE AUTUMN 1975 NPG MINISTERIAL MEETING. HE SAID THAT THEY WOULD HOLD THE MEETING SOMEPLACE OTHER THAN BONN. BRUCE.

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